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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE October 30, 2009

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Statement from President Roberto Micheletti's Negotiating Team In "Guaymuras Dialogue"

Hondurans Reach Deal for Future of Honduras

Accord Allows for Vote in Honduran Congress to Decide on Possibility of Zelaya's Return

Tegucigalpa, Honduras – In the early hours of this morning, Hondurans successfully forged an agreement that is a key first step towards a final resolution of the political crisis which Honduras have endured since late June. The “Guaymuras Accord” allows for the Honduran National Congress, in consultation with the Honduran Supreme Court, to vote on the possible reinstatement of former president Manuel Zelaya.

“In an effort to expedite reaching a final agreement, this negotiating commission went further than it had previously. We supported a proposal to allow for a vote in the National Congress, in consultation with the Supreme Court, to restore the whole of the Executive Branch of our government to its state prior to June 28th. This represents a significant concession on our part,” said President Micheletti’s negotiators in the “Guaymuras Dialogue.”

It is important to note that the Honduran National Congress will vote on the possible reinstatement of the Executive Branch to the status prior to June 28th. The agreement does not automatically reinstate Mr. Zelaya to the presidency. Members of the National Congress, as the representatives of the people of Honduras, in consultation with the Supreme Court of Honduras, will have the final word on the status of Mr. Zelaya.

While the negotiations in recent days had focused exclusively on the most contentious provision - the possible reinstatement of former President Zelaya - eight other provisions, including the mutual recognition of the November 29th elections, had previously been agreed to by all negotiators on both sides. The other provisions in the agreement are:

1. The creation of a national reconciliation and unity government;
2. The rejection of amnesty for political crimes;
3. Recognition of the November 29th elections and whoever is elected the new president of Honduras;
4. Renunciation of any effort to organize a constitutional assembly to modify the Constitution;

5. The transfer of armed forces to the Supreme Electoral Tribunal in preparation for the elections;
6. Creation of Verification Commission to oversee compliance of the agreement;
7. Creation of a Truth Commission to investigate the events prior, during and after June 28th;
8. Calling on the international community to lift sanctions;

"This agreement provides our country a pathway to move forward. The international recognition of the November 29th elections and defending our constitution has been all along of paramount concern to President Micheletti and our commission. This agreement does that. Our country, as it has in the past, will have free, fair and transparent elections that are recognized by the international community. We are eternally grateful for the constructive role the representatives of the United States government played, as well as that of the Organization of American States, during the recent negotiations," said Vilma Morales.

Both commissions are now working on developing a calendar of events leading up to the vote, in consultation with the Supreme Court, by Honduras' National Congress.

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